

# Voyager

## MagellanMusic Newsletter

### Winter 2012

Now that the recent elections are history but PolitiCrap still goes on, there are good vibes out there, and one is called Music. The **Voyager** staff loves to talk about it (besides **MagellanMusic**), so with that in mind we'd like to share a poignant article about the differences between music of the past and present. If you would like to read it you can use this link. Don't worry, it isn't long.

[http://the60sofficialsite.com/Why\\_Is\\_Most\\_Music\\_So\\_Bad\\_Today.html](http://the60sofficialsite.com/Why_Is_Most_Music_So_Bad_Today.html)

You will notice that the title says it all. The premise is how the fervent gusto of Pop music from the 1950's through the 1970's changed into bourgeois Corporate commercialism during the 1980's. There was so much originality and so many firsts from those years, especially the 60's and 70's, that it's what paved the way for all Rock/Pop to follow. It was so expressive that producers had to re-learn their jobs. They helped artists reach in and be more imaginative, to focus better. Producers urged them to create for artistic value, not dollar value. Could "Sgt. Pepper", "Court of the Crimson King", "Close to the Edge", or "Dark Side of the Moon" happen today?

That is why Pop music is totally different now. It merely diverged into derivatives all based on sales and image. Show biz. A Corporate reality, not artistic. A major record contract today is so remote it's like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. We might as well fantasize about a hundred pounds of Columbian Gold pot at the end of the rainbow too. And even if you do score a contract remember this, *"If you don't sell, you go to hell."* But if there is a good side it's the advance in technology and availability of music online. Record labels seem to have opened their vaults and the great old artists have come back to life. A great number them have been re-mastered for great sound quality (many with additional tracks), as well as numerous rare titles, including numerous artists you may have never heard of. So for those interested in Christmas ideas, or rediscovering great oldies, or finding new ones, two great sources are [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and [www.apple.com/iTunes](http://www.apple.com/iTunes). Take advantage. Look around. Explore. You will find some amazing surprises.

*"And now, my pretty, because we are so eeeeeeeville...!"*, the next logical suggestion is of course **MagellanMusic**. All titles are available at [www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic](http://www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic). We highly recommend the discs because regardless of the ease of downloading, the CD sound quality is matchless.

Another good site is Amazon, and their **MagellanMusic** link is:  
[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Dpopular&field-keywords=magellanmusic](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Dpopular&field-keywords=magellanmusic).

There is also a nice site where **MagellanMusic** collectibles are available:  
[www.cafepress.com/magellanmusic](http://www.cafepress.com/magellanmusic). Very cool items here.

**Voyager** has recently learned that **MagellanMusic** is now included on the playlists of two large online music broadcasters. One is **Rdio**, the other is **MOG**. **Rdio** is an ad-free subscriber service founded in 2010 that has a catalog of some 12 million songs, including indies like **MagellanMusic**, and they are growing rapidly. They offer listening formats for virtually every kind of electronic device, and they broadcast at 256 kbps for good clarity. They are at [www.rdio.com](http://www.rdio.com). **MOG** is a little different. They are not only a broadcast site, but a social site for musicians, which is a nice touch. They feature a huge catalog of artists and songs, which you can assemble as you like to fit your tastes, which is much like having your own radio station. Their link is [www.mog.com](http://www.mog.com).

**Voyager** has also learned that **Aural Moon**, the online broadcast station that specializes in progressive rock (which includes **MagellanMusic**), was almost knocked offline permanently because of Hurricane Sandy. **Aural Moon** has a worldwide network based out of New York City, close enough to the heaviest storm-hit areas that they were down for almost a week. So the good news is **Aural Moon** is alive and well and back on the air. Give them a listen at [www.auralmoon.com](http://www.auralmoon.com).

If no one has noticed, **MagellanMusic** took the plunge of finally presenting an 'official' photograph. It has always been standard operating procedure in show biz, but **MagellanMusic** felt it was self-indulgent. There are many pictures posted on their home website and other music sites, so they didn't understand the point of an 'official' photo. But because of numerous requests they did. And as expected it's a compelling, artsy photograph treated with enhancements that give it a surreal effect. It can be seen on the main page of their website, [www.MagellanMusic.com](http://www.MagellanMusic.com).

Now for the bad news. The reality of show business is occasional fraud. It's rare when working directly with individuals or companies, but thanks to the internet con artists have flowered. Online music schemers prey on independent musicians by posing as music promotion companies, sometimes masquerade as charities, many are cleverly located in Europe, but nearly all charge fees or ask for songs without royalty commitment. Indie musicians are

always anxious to be heard so sometimes they submit. One clue to look for is lack of address, names, or phone numbers posted on their websites. An example is called **Esente Music Group**. They claim to donate money to charity from CD sales, and the CD's are comprised of songs given to them free-of-charge by independent artists. The **Voyager** staff enquired further and found that **Esente Music Group** refused to give their exact address, had no phone number listed, no business license, and refused to supply us a report of their sales and charitable contributions. Still, they encouraged **MagellanMusic** to 'donate' a song featuring artists from Oklahoma, but no such CD has ever appeared. **Voyager** strongly emphasizes that all indie artists completely avoid such operations as **Esente Music Group**. Never pay for or give away anything online that can't be tracked.

From a different point of view, another site particularly eerie is **Bandating**. They are similar to other sites by presenting artists for viewing and listening, but they practice censorship. **Bandating** removed the entire **MagellanMusic** summer newsletter because it contained a mere one-line political joke, which obviously suggests political motivation. **Bandating** informed us that any songs can be posted, but still refused to repost our newsletter. That sounds like double-talk. Sure enough, **Bandating** later posted a disclaimer that all submissions, songs and comments alike, *are accepted at their approval*. **Voyager** was aghast by this. Another word to describe it is Fascism. This is an overt breach of Freedom of Expression, a part of the Constitutional right of Freedom of Speech. It is the core value of America. But **Bandating** is clearly the opposite. Strangely fitting that **MagellanMusic's** political quip was against **Republicans**. If anyone would like to comment on **Bandating** being the only music or social website practicing censorship they can be found at [www.bandating.com](http://www.bandating.com) or [www.facebook.com/Bandating](http://www.facebook.com/Bandating).

Now for the good news. This past summer was an historic diplomatic conference in Beijing, China concerning Musicians' Unions (MU) from 46 countries around the world. It was arranged through WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organization, an office of the United Nations. The meeting was to discuss the formulation of an international treaty, which has been in development for more than a decade, specifically concerning music licensing best exemplified by YouTube. There have been so many visual presentations posted online without the usual procedure of licensing that there have been a number of lawsuits involved. YouTube has improved efforts to block audiovisuals without proper authorization, but more has to be done. The treaty will formalize legal protocols around the world which until now had never been firmly established. The Diplomatic Conference was attended by 156 Member States, 6 intergovernmental organizations, and 45 non-governmental organizations - the highest participation ever at a WIPO Diplomatic Conference. A total of 131 delegations signed the treaty, 41 with

full powers of approval. This historic conference was concluded on June 26.  
Bravo!

Maybe the best news of all is **Voyager** has learned that **MagellanMusic** is releasing a new video very soon. We can't get any details, but apparently it features a song from the "**Yesterday's Children (V.2)**" album. As soon as we know more we will pass it along.

Remember to look for fun MagellanMusic items at [www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic](http://www.cdbaby.com/all/magellanmusic) and [www.cafepress.com/magellanmusic](http://www.cafepress.com/magellanmusic).  
May the groove be with you!

*"Love is the one thing that can bring the world together, and music can be the greatest love of all." - unknown*